



RHODE ISLAND BAYS, RIVERS, & WATERSHEDS COORDINATION TEAM

February 20, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Economic Development Corporation
Providence, Rhode Island

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Coordination Team Members in Attendance: Jared Rhodes (for Kevin Flynn), Mike Walker (for Saul Kaplan), Tom Uva (for Ray Marshall), Sue Kiernan (for Michael Sullivan)

Other Meeting Participants: Jane Austin, Ariana McBride, Richard Ribb, Kevin Nelson, Guy Lefebvre

Coordination Team Staff: Ames Colt

CT Administration:

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Colt requested approval of draft minutes for December 19, 2007 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously to approve the 12/19/07 meeting minutes.

Budget Article 30 Implementation:

CRMC Trans-Atlantic Cable Fee Update:

CRMC had a public hearing on February 12th to consider input on the amount and related conditions of the fee to be implemented. Colt proposed a \$38,000 year per cable fee, which was accepted; but they also requested one more public hearing process. It will be approved on March 25th. Assuming that all goes well with CRMC fee, the CT should see \$136,000 in the RRA by June 1st, or the end of June. (\$152,000 minus the 10% deduction for deposit into the RI General Revenue account.).

DEM's Septage Disposal Fee Update:

DEM is in the final stage of promulgating the septage fee. It should go into effect on April 1st. Assuming that the fee will generate approximately \$500,000 annually, or

\$125,000 per quarter, by 9/1/08 it is estimated that about \$112,000 will be available in the CT revenue account (125,000 minus the \$12,500 general revenue account deduction). Billing for the period of April through June 2008 will be issued July 1 with payments due in 30-60 days.

Budgeting Update:

Generally, the CT is in good shape in terms of expenditure of OSPAR FY 08 funds. There is a small balance remaining to maintain the fixed station for bay monitoring buoy network through the 2008 field season. A decision still needs to be made as to how many OSPAR funds will be available in FY 09. DEM is going to begin renewing USGS contracts for the streamgages and river monitoring. FY09 proposals from the Economic Environmental Monitoring collaboratives are in the works. Until revenues from the septage disposal fee start arriving in the CT restricted receipt account in September 2008, funding available for economic and environmental monitoring will have to be capped at \$250,000 for FY09 programming..

Miscellaneous:

- Colt reported that the CT has a new contact in the Governor's office, Christopher Long.
- There will be a joint committee hearing (Senator Sosnowski's & Representative Malik's committees) on the CT scheduled for the third week of March.

